

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. Canceled

1 7. (Currently amended) A device for holding substances during drying
2 comprising a flask having a structure defining a first opening; a first filter member disposed in
3 the first opening; a second filter member disposed in the first opening juxtaposedly to the first
4 filter member, a second opening, and ~~The device of Claim 6 additionally comprising~~ a third filter
5 member disposed in said second opening.

6 8. (Currently amended) A device for holding substances during drying
7 comprising a flask having a structure defining a first opening; a first filter member disposed in
8 the first opening; a second filter member disposed in the first opening juxtaposedly to the first
9 filter member, and ~~The device of Claim 1 additionally comprising~~ a temperature-conductive
10 member passing through a side of the flask.

1 9. (Original) A freeze-drying assembly comprising a freeze-drying
2 apparatus; and a device disposed in said apparatus for holding substances during freeze-drying,
3 said device comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening, a first filter member
4 disposed in the opening, and a second filter member disposed in the opening juxtaposedly to the
5 first filter member.

1 10. (Original) A method for processing a substance under sterile conditions
2 comprising disposing a substance in a flask; positioning the flask in a drying apparatus; and
3 passing a drying medium through a first filter member and through a second filter member
4 juxtaposed to the first filter member for drying the substance.

1 11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 additionally comprising re-hydrating
2 the dried substance.

1 12. (Original) The method of Claim 10 additionally comprising moving the
2 second filter member against the first filter member.

1 13. (Original) The method of Claim 10 additionally comprising contacting the
2 substance with a temperature-conductive member for monitoring the temperature of the
3 substance.

1 14. (Original) The method of Claim 13 additionally comprising coupling a
2 thermocouple to the temperature-conductive member.

1 15. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein said moving of the second
2 filter member comprises flexing the second filter.

1 16. (Original) The method of Claim 10 additionally comprising exposing the
2 flask to water vapor.

1 17. (Original) The method of Claim 10 wherein said flask comprises a
2 transparent structure.

1 18. (Original) The method of Claim 17 additionally comprising viewing the
2 substance through the transparent structure.

19-22. Canceled.

1 23. (Currently amended) A device for holding substances during drying
2 comprising a flask having a structure defining a first opening; a first filter member disposed in
3 the first opening; a second filter member disposed in the first opening and having the capability
4 of being contacted by the first filter when the first filter is flexed, a second opening, and The
5 ~~device of Claim 19 additionally comprising~~ a third filter member disposed in a second opening.

1 24. (Currently amended) A device for holding substances during drying
2 comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed in the
3 opening; a second filter member disposed in the opening and having the capability of being
4 contacted by the first filter when the first filter is flexed, and ~~The device of Claim 19 additionally~~
5 ~~comprising~~ a temperature-conductive member passing through a side of the flask.

25-26. Canceled.

1 27. (Currently amended) A device for holding substances during drying
2 comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed in the
3 opening; a second filter member disposed in the opening and having the capability of being
4 contacted by the first filter when the first filter is flexed, and ~~The device of Claim 19 additionally~~
5 ~~comprising~~ a pair of temperature-conductive members passing through the flask.

28. Canceled.

1 29. (Currently amended) A device for holding substances during drying
2 comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed in the
3 opening; a second filter member disposed in the opening and having the capability of being
4 contacted by the first filter when the first filter is flexed, a retainer ring engaged to the flask for
5 retaining the first and second filter members in the opening wherein said retainer ring includes an
6 inwardly protruding lip extending over a portion of the second filter member disposed between
7 the inwardly protruding lip and the flask and, ~~The device of Claim 28 additionally comprising a~~
8 cap coupled to the retainer ring.

30-33. Canceled.

1 34. (Currently amended) A device for holding substances during drying
2 comprising a flask having a structure defining a first opening; a first filter member disposed over
3 the first opening and having a flexed structure; a second filter member disposed over the first

4 opening and in contact with the flexed structure, a second opening and ~~The device of Claim 6~~
5 ~~additionally comprising~~ a third filter member disposed in said second opening.

35-39. Canceled.

1 40. (Currently amended) A device for holding substances during drying
2 comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed in the
3 opening; a second filter member disposed in the opening and having no absorbing material
4 positioned between the first and second filter members, and ~~The device of Claim 37 additionally~~
5 ~~comprising~~ at least one temperature-conductive member passing through the ~~flash~~ flask.

1 41. (Currently amended) A device for holding substances during drying
2 comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed in the
3 opening; a second filter member disposed in the opening wherein said first and second filter
4 members are juxtaposed with respect to each other and have no absorbing material positioned
5 between the first and second filter members, and ~~The device of Claim 39 additionally~~
6 ~~comprising~~ at least one temperature-conductive member passing through the flask.

42-43. Canceled.

1 44. (Previously presented) The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 9 wherein
2 said first filter member has a higher flexibility than the second filter member.

1 45. (Previously presented) The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 9 wherein
2 said structure of said flask additionally comprises a second opening.

1 46. (Previously presented) The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 45
2 additionally comprising a third filter member disposed in said second opening.

1 47. (Previously presented) The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 9
2 additionally comprising a temperature-conductive member passing through a side of the flask.

1 48. (Previously presented) The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 46
2 additionally comprising a temperature-conductive member passing through a side of the flask.

1 49. (Previously presented) The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 9 wherein
2 said first filter member includes a flexed structure in contact with the second filter member.

1 50. (Previously presented) The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 9 wherein
2 said first filter member and said second filter member have no absorbing material disposed
3 between them.

1 51. (Previously presented) A method for processing a substance under sterile
2 conditions comprising disposing a substance in a flask; positioning the flask in a drying
3 apparatus; passing a drying medium through a first filter member and through a second filter
4 member for drying the substance; and moving the second filter towards the first filter member.

1 52. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 51 additionally comprising
2 re-hydrating the dried substance.

1 53. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 51 additionally comprising
2 moving the second filter member against the first filter member.

1 54. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 51 wherein said second filter
2 member is juxtaposed to the first filter member.

1 55. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 51 wherein said first filter
2 member and said second filter member have no absorbing material disposed between them.

1 56. (Currently amended) A method for processing a substance under sterile
2 conditions comprising disposing a substance in a flask; positioning the flask in a drying
3 apparatus; and passing a drying medium through a first filter member and through a second filter
4 member juxtaposed to the first filter member for drying the substance ~~The method of Claim 10~~

5 wherein said first filter member and said second filter member have no absorbing material
6 disposed between them.

1 57. (Previously presented) A device for holding substances during drying
2 comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed in the
3 opening; a second filter member disposed in the opening; and a temperature-conductive member
4 passing through a side of the flask.

1 58. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 57 wherein said structure
2 defines a second opening.

1 59. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 58 additionally comprising a
2 third filter member disposed in said second opening.

1 60. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 57 wherein said second filter
2 possesses the capability of being contacted by the first filter when the first filter is flexed.

1 61. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 59 wherein said second filter
2 possesses the capability of being contacted by the first filter when the first filter is flexed